**Dominika Rygiel: Let's start from the question concerning your new novel, "Yoro". It is said to be an absolute criticism of everything that changes our life into a nightmare such as wars, violence, exploitation of others, but also scientific and religious dogmas. Weren't you afraid that undertaking such serious issues in your book could make it too tough for an average reader?**

**Marina Perezagua:** I am afraid of many things in life, but never when I write. The act of writing is for me an expression of freedom. If one day I question this freedom I will stop writing.When one writes they risk not being liked by others, but for me a greater risk would be not enjoying what I do. Nevertheless, when both sides -readers and this freedom- converge at the same point I feel a bliss even greater than what I derive from enjoying the freedom of literary expresión.

**DR: The language that is used in the novel couldn't be termed as 'excessively mild'. How would such a young writer acquire such a sharp and aggressive style?**

**MR:** When I see the news, the leaders of the world speaking about international politics, I feel ashamed of the contrast between reality and language. They count the victims as they count apples, they speak about climate change like they speak about a temporary cloud. Everything in the language today seems mild so as not to unsettle the economical and political alliances. I try to give back to the written word its sense of engagement with reality. A victim is not a number, it represents a blow against humanity and a failure of humankind.

**DR: I understand that writing such a novel is a kind of a protest against coldbloodedness and turning a blind eye to all the evil in this world. Everyone knows that all the problems mentioned in "Yoro" really exist, but no one dares to talk about it publicly and even if they do it is a lost battle. Don't you feel that "Yoro", the same as its protagonist is a silent scream of nothingnesss? The scream of helplessness? Tilting at windmills?**

**MR:** Yes, I think that “Yoro” plays a great deal with metafiction. The protagonist is indeed a silent scream living in a novel that is a reflection of this difficulty to be heard. But I want to think that once the world develops its ears all the screams will be heard respectively. In the meantime though, we do have to shout

**DR: Don't you think that writing such a high caliber literature, like "Yoro", is an act of courage?**

**MR:** For me an act of courage is transplanting a heart into an empty chest, or stealing food for your hungry baby, or simply get up every morning when you are suffering a depression, but I thank you very much for seeing my writing as an act of courage :)

**DR: Most writers claim that they allow their books to mature and they mature alongside with their books. In one of the interviews, Don DeLillo said that he writes novels on the spot, without prior preparations. For Julio Cortazar writing was a form of a play with a reader. Most of the novel writers have the idea of the beginning of their book, but they do not knowing how the story would develop. You, in contrast, must know the ending before you start writing. Why?**

**MP:** I think that there are different ways to get into a novel. Mine (knowing the end) is probably linked to my personality: I need to have a plan A, B, C, D... I need to tie up the loose ends of my life, this makes me feel safe in reality and in fiction. I do have space for improvisation, but this occurs knowing where I will end.

**DR: Before publishing "Yoro", you published two well received collections of stories "Criaturias abisales" and "Leche" (so far not published in Poland). I would like to ask what is the difference between working on the collection of stories and a novel?**

**MP:** I feel more free with a novel, because I know in advance that due to its nature it will have imperfections. With short stories it is impossible to reach perfection, but one have the strange feeling that it can be reached. It is also a question of rythm. Some times my life demands loyalty to the same characters because I am more quiet, more able to give serenity to the same text during a long period. Other times I feel that my life is so wild, so quick, that I have a certain emergency to jump into different stories, forgetting a character to create a different one. In this respect, this “tempo” -this music or breath of writing- is very important to me.

**DR: A man doesn't live on work alone. I know that apart from writing and giving lectures at the University, you like swimming. What else do you do to relax and unwind?**

**MP:** I love nature. I spend as much time as I can in the sea or in the mountains. I also love dogs and I take them with me wherever I go. I also have a little robot and I enjoy programming him so that he improve his communicative skills :D I am very interested in artificial intelligence.

**DR: You were born in Sevilia, then you were working in Lyon in France for a long time, but you pernamently live in New York. You like travelling. So I would like to know what would be your dream travel?**

**MP:** Probably you are the first person to whom I say this: I've been planning in my head for months to make a trip around the world in a sailing boat. It takes a lot of preparation, so it will not happen before four years, or maybe it does not happen at all, but I will try with all my might. I need the sea, I need fresh air, I also need distance from the cost and desire to find the remaining clean places on earth.

**DR: You spent most of your time living in Europe. What made you to move and choose New York?**

**MP:** I got a scholarhip for my PhD and then I stayed. I could not live in other place in US, but I do admire New York as a nest of critics and possible changes.

**DR: The last question, rather obvious, but I wouldn't be myself if I didn't ask this. What are your plans for the future?Are you working on another novel? Could you reveal some details and tell us what it is going to be about?**

**MP:** I never have problems speaking about an upcoming book, but in this case is difficult to explain with a few words because it has a lot of different lines. It is a novel that I am finishing now, and takes place mostly in Texas. It has mystery, love, death and hope.

**DR: Thank you.**